

Message Text

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63-61

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PRS-01 L-01 H-01 SCA-01 SY-02 A-01 SAJ-01

RSC-01 PM-03 /045 W

----- 003287

R 091815Z DEC 74

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0231

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

AMEMBASSY BONN

USAREUR FOR POLAD AND AEAGB-CI

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 2240

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CASC, GE, US, WB

SUBJECT: GDR HUMANITARIAN CASES: LEONARD LEE LOTT

1. LEONARD LEE LOTT, WHOSE FIANCEE AND CHILD WERE ON LIST OF HUMANITARIAN CASES PASSED TO GDR DURING US-GDR NEGOTIATIONS ON ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND WHO IS ENLISTED MEMBER OF US FORCES BERLIN, HAS RECENTLY REPORTED TO HIS COMMANDER THAT HIS FIANCEE --A PHYSICIAN IN EAST BERLIN -- WAS ACCOSTED IN OCTOBER UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES SUGGESTING GDR SECURITY AGENCIES MAY BE ATTEMPTING TO COMPROMISE HER OR LOTT OR BOTH. LOTT'S VOLUNTARY APPROACH CAME JUST AS MILITARY AUTHORITIES, AFTER CONSULATATION WITH MISSION, WERE ON VERGE OF APPREHENDING HIM FOR QUESTIONING; HE HAS LONG BEEN UNDER INVESTIGATION BECAUSE OF SUSPICIONS AROUSED BY HIS FREQUENT VISITS TO EAST BERLIN IN VIOLATION OF REGULATIONS IN CIVILIAN CLOTHING AND BY S-BAHN). LOTT GIVES APPEARANCE OF COOPERATING FULLY IN ARMY INTERROGATION, WHICH IS AIMED AT ASCERTAINING WHETHER HE HAS ALREADY FALLEN PREY TO

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GDR SECURITY APPARATUS. (HIS WORK IN OFFICER PERSONNEL RECORDS

SECTION WHILE WOULD DOUBTLESS BE OF INTEREST TO GDR.)

2. IN COURSE OF ARMY QUESTIONING LOTT EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE BITTERNESS AT DEPARTMENT'S HANDLING OF HIS CASE WITH GDR. CONSUL GENERAL, TOGETHER WITH CONSULAR OFFICER WHO HAD MET LOTT ONCE PREVIOUSLY, THEREFORE MET WITH HIM DECEMBER 6 TO HEAR OUT HIS ALLEGATIONS AND EXPLAIN STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH GDR ON HIS AND RELATED CASES. CONVINCED THAT NONECKER WANTED A US AMBASSADOR IN EAST BERLIN "IN THE WORST WAY" AND WOULD HAVE PAID "ANY PRICE," LOTT BELIEVES DEPARTMENT LET HIM DOWN BY NOT HOLDING OUT UNTIL FIANCEES RELEASED AS HE CLAIMED "ALL OTHER COUNTRIES" HAD DONE. MISSION OFFICERS SET RECORD STRAIGHT ON EXPERIENCE OF OTHER NATO COUNTRIES, POINTED OUT THAT USG HAD IN FACT PUSHED HUMANITARIAN ISSUE FURTHER THAN MOST, AND EXPRESSED PERSONAL OPINION THAT GDR ON VERGE OF DECISION IN HUMANITARIAN CASES, THOUGH THERE NO BASIS FOR PREDICTING THAT DECISION WILL BE FAVORABLE. THEY ADDED THAT EMBASSY BERLIN INTENDS TO MAKE HUMANITARIAN CASES A FIRST ORDER OF PRIORITY AFTER EMBASSY OPENS DECEMBER 9.

3. LOTT'S PITCH TO ARMY AND TO MISSION IS THAT HE WANTS AN ADMINISTRATIVE DISCHARGE SO THAT HE CAN REMAIN IN BERLIN AS CIVILIAN TO PROVIDE MORAL SUPPORT TO HIS "WIFE" AND THEIR CHILD. HE TOLD MISOFFS HE AGREED HE SHOULD NOT CONTINUE VISITING EAST BERLIN IN VIOLATION OF REGULATIONS AND WOULD NOT DO ANYTHING IRRATIONAL. HE ADDED THAT, SHOULD HE BE SUDDENLY TRANSFERRED FROM BERLIN, HOWEVER, HE NOT CERTAIN WHAT WOULD FOLLOW.

4. COMMENT. LOTT IS DISTRAUGHT AND CLEARLY FEELS THAT TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR FAVORABLE GDR ACTION ON FINANCEE'S REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO MARRY, HE ALSO IS EITHER DISSEMBLING EXPERTLY OR EXTREMELY NAIVE IN BEING CONVINCED THAT GDR NOT AWARE HE IS A GI. UNTIL INVESTIGATION PROGRESSES FURTHER, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO REACH FIRM CONCLUSION ON WHAT HAS SO FAR TRANSPAIRED WITH GDR AUTHORITIES. HIS STORY IS SO IMPLAUSIBLE IN PLACES THAT IT JUST MAY BE TRUE.

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(DETAILS INCLUDE, E.G., ALLEGATION THAT MAN WHO ACCOSTED WIFE BILLED HIMSELF AS SWEDISH DIPLOMAT AND SUBSEQUENTLY ASSAULTED HER, CLAIM THAT HE AND WIFE LATER SPOTTED "SWEDE" IN TRAIN STATION AND GOT INTO FRACAS RESULTING IN LOTT'S TRYING TO PRESS CHARGES, AND ALLEGATION THAT LOTT HIMSELF WAS HELD MANY HOURS BY GDR OFFICIALS, WHO AT ONE POINT SAID HIS WIFE WOULD NEVER GET PERMISSION TO LEAVE GDR.) CONSENSUS HERE

IS THAT ADMINISTRATIVE DISCHARGE WOULD BE IN BEST INTERESTS
OF USG, BUT MILITARY AUTHORITIES MUST FIRST COMPLETE
INVESTIGATION TO SATISFY THEMSELVES THAT LOTT HAS NOT
ALREADY BEEN COOPTED AND CAME TO HIS COMMANDER WITH
SOMEWHAT FANCIFUL STORY BECAUSE HE REALIZED NET WAS TIGHTENING.
ON CONSULAR ASPECT, OUR GUESS AT MOMENT IS THAT WHATEVER HAS
HAPPENED LESSENS ANY LIKELIHOOD OF A FORTHCOMING GDR REPLY
TO USG PETITION ON LOTT'S BEHALF.

5. USCOB CONCURS. SELIGMANN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974USBERL02240
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740357-0258
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741249/aaaabpnm.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <25 MAR 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GDR HUMANITARIAN CASES: LEONARD LEE LOTT
TAGS: PFOR, CASC, GC, US, WB, (LOTT, LEONARD LEE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005